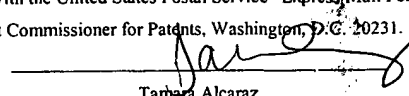


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Tamara Alcaraz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

H. Kirk HAMMOND et al.

Serial No.: 09/847,936

Filing Date: May 3, 2001

For: TECHNIQUES AND COMPOSITIONS  
FOR TREATING CARDIOVASCULAR  
DISEASE BY *IN VIVO* GENE  
DELIVERY

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1646

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified patent application.